



# Bosnia UPDATE

*A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces Prepared by the Chairman of the Committee on National Security.*

*Lloyd Spence*, Chairman

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## Quotes of the Week:

"For the Muslims, everybody from our side is a war criminal."

-- *Bosnian Serb soldier,*  
2/13/96

"This is a scandal, this is not justice.... This can only harm the effort to make peace."

-- *Dragan Bozanic, Bosnian Serb official, commenting on the extradition of two Serb officers to the War Crimes Tribunal, 2/13/96*

"The parties will not be allowed... to decide which parts of the accord they are going to implement. They are going to implement all of it."

-- *Nicholas Burns, State Department spokesman,*  
2/14/96

"Dayton is not in a crisis. It wasn't realistic to expect that everything would go smoothly."

-- *Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, 2/17/96*

"We have avoided a crisis.... We have prevented a situation that could have jeopardized the Dayton agreements."

-- *U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, commenting on an agreement by the parties to recommit to implementation of the peace accord, 2/18/96*

## In Bosnia and the Balkans:

**F**rench forces seize 11 soldiers, including three Iranians, during a raid on a house near Sarajevo. The soldiers are said to possess a large amount of ammunition and explosives. American officials say those seized planned to attack NATO facilities and call this a "flagrant violation" of the peace accord. IFOR commander Admiral Leighton Smith says "there is terrorist training activity going on in this building and it has direct association with people in the [Bosnian] government." Bosnian officials protest the seizure, claiming the house and weapons were used to train people "to hunt war criminals."

**B**osnian Serb leader Nikola Koljevic says the handing over of two Bosnian Serb officers to the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague could "endanger the Dayton agreement." He says, "Nobody feels secure.... Tensions are very high."

**A**fter threatening NATO airstrikes, Bosnian Serb forces allow NATO troops access to two bases in Han Pijesak and Han Kram, in eastern Bosnia, containing heavy weapons. A

NATO spokesman characterizes the previous refusal to allow access as "unacceptable under the terms of the Dayton peace accord."

**U**.S. forces begin to seize and destroy heavy weapons that remain deployed in violation of the peace accord. U.S. troops compel Bosnian Serb forces to retreat behind front-line positions in compliance with the peace agreement.

**A** mass exodus of thousands of Bosnian Serbs takes place as entire families flee the suburbs of Sarajevo that are to revert to Bosnian government control. Bosnian government police forces move into the Sarajevo suburbs of Vogosca and Ilijas. IFOR commander Admiral Smith agrees to allow Bosnian Serb military vehicles to assist in the Serb exodus and promises that IFOR will provide safe passage. A Bosnian government spokesman criticizes IFOR's role, saying it "is encouraging people to leave."

**U**.S. intelligence sources report that Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic has told his forces to capture IFOR personnel as hostages in retaliation for the seizure of Bosnian Serb officers. U.S. forces are placed on alert, security is tightened, and the

size of U.S. patrols is increased.

The Bosnian government accepts new “rules of the road” authorizing the arrest by NATO forces only of indicted war criminals, not those suspected of war crimes. The new approach is not endorsed by the Bosnian Serbs, Croatia, or Serbia.

Bosnian Serbs retaliate for the seizure of Serb military officers by arresting several Muslims on suspicion of war crimes.

U.S. air assets in Bosnia begin to scale back their presence and return to bases in the United States and Europe.

More than 760 U.S. soldiers — the first group to deploy to Bosnia — return to their home base in Italy.

Indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic is sighted four times by IFOR forces who take no action to arrest him because of the presence of civilians, the possibility of gunfire and casualties, and the numerical advantage of Karadzic’s armed guards.

A delegation of nine House Members travels to Tuzla with Deputy Secretary of Defense White.

A plan worked out by Carl Bildt, U.N. High Representative, to ensure the orderly transfer of control of Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo is denounced by Bosnian Serb leaders. The plan reportedly calls for joint police patrols and a gradual phase-in of Muslim and Croatian authorities.

Bosnian President Izetbegovic is hospitalized with heart problems.

## In Washington:

President Clinton sends Congress a reprogramming request for \$820 million in supplemental appropriations for Bosnia military and civilian reconstruction efforts.

Four Senators write to President Clinton expressing “outrage” over reports that Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic was allowed to travel unimpeded through NATO checkpoints. A Pentagon spokesman says U.S. forces have “no evidence” the reported passage actually occurred.

## In New York:

The U.N. and Yugoslavia suspend sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs after the Security Council receives certification from NATO that Bosnian Serb forces have withdrawn from the zone of separation.

The U.N. Security Council appoints Canadian Justice Louise Arbour to succeed Richard Goldstone as prosecutor of the War Crimes Tribunal.

## In The Hague:

The War Crimes Tribunal announces its intention to give NATO all evidence dealing with indicted war criminals in order to help IFOR identify and arrest them.

## Compliance Watch:

Bosnian Serb military officials refuse to deal with IFOR in protest over the capture and extradition to the War Crimes Tribunal of two Bosnian Serb officers. A NATO spokesman calls this a “serious violation of the Dayton peace agreement.”

Snipers open fire on busses traveling between Sarajevo and Ilidza, injuring three people. A NATO spokesman calls this “a cowardly and reprehensible act that violated the spirit and the letter of the Dayton peace accord.”

Bosnian Serbs boycott military and diplomatic meetings planned to discuss free elections, prisoner exchanges, and boundary demarcation. They also refuse to meet with Croatian and Muslim officials and fail to attend a session of the OSCE-sponsored arms control talks in Vienna.

A Bosnian Serb military official boycotts talks with IFOR, Muslim, and Croat representatives on board a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Adriatic Sea. A NATO statement declares this to be “a direct contravention of the Dayton peace accord” and of the reaffirmation of the accord reached in Rome. Admiral Smith calls the Serb snub “unconscionable.”

The presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, along with representatives of the “contact group” of countries, meet in Rome to discuss problems in the implementation of the Dayton peace accord. The parties agree to specific steps to restore compliance with the peace accord, including a resumption of contacts between Bosnian Serb forces and IFOR, reunification of Sarajevo and Mostar on schedule, cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal, expulsion of foreign forces from Bosnia, and the release of civilian prisoners.

Additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372) or David Trachtenberg (x60532) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.